

# ALIEN-ATED!

## 'Alf wrecked my marriage,' says a star of the show

ACTOR Max Wright, head of TV's Tanner family, has made an astounding admission to friends — his furry little co-star Alf has ruined his real-life marriage!

Max has split from his wife of 23 years, Linda, and they are talking divorce. They grew apart after Max left the family home in New York to work in the series and it was almost a year before Linda was able to join him in Los Angeles.

Reconciliation attempts failed because the actor is so deeply involved in the show.

"Max commuted from Los Angeles to New York to be with us, but the strain on our marriage was terrible," says Linda. "He'd come home exhausted, act very moody and be on the phone for hours with the producers.

"Then, before we'd had a chance to be together, he'd fly back to Los Angeles — and Alf. Max was so wrapped up in the show there was no time for anyone else. He lives and breathes Alf and I just can't compete with the little guy."

Max is renting a house in Los Angeles and has an extraordinary workload as Willy Tanner in the hit series, shown in Australia on the Seven Network.

Because of the complexities involved in filming with TV's favorite alien, one short scene can take hours to complete... and Max is in just about every scene with Alf.

He is passionate about Alf and constantly worries about the quality of the scripts.

Max also talks about Alf as if he is a real person.

"I liked him right away," he says. "He's very human. He has a real rough sense of humor. Alf has charisma and personality."

Last year's writers' strike also put a strain on Max. He accepted a role in a play during what were to be his holidays, but then the strike finished and he was called back to Los Angeles immediately.

"I had to clean up my house, get in the car and drive my family back



**“Max was so wrapped up in the show there was no time for anyone else...”**

to New York, then get on a plane and fly six hours and work a 14-hour day,” he says.

Max and Linda already had overcome a drinking problem Max had after being “devastated” when the couple lost four babies after the birth of their daughter, now 19.

“That forged a bond between us,” Linda says. “But the bond wasn’t strong enough.

● Max Wright surrounded by television’s Tanner family... and Alf. The price of fame has cost him his marriage.

“It wasn’t wine, women or song that wrecked our marriage. It was the furry creature from Melmac. Alf has brought so much joy to so many, but he’s meant nothing but pain for us.”